therefore be vested in Municipal Councils and the connected plans and records handed over to them.

The departmental schools and hospitals should be handed over to Municipal Councils as in British India together with the necessary grants. The expenditure on this account will be reduced and the management and control made stricter.

The power of making appointments in the Municipal Councils was vested in the Presidents alone. This power was sometimes abused by the Presidents by making appointments against rules and justice. This power should therefore be vested in the Councils. If this could not be done, the Councils should be empowered to entertain complaints and appeals about appointments made by the Presidents. Further, the persons appointed in many cases were not duly qualified. To remedy this defect a Sanitary Test should be instituted and only those who passed this test should be appointed in Municipalities.

The power of electing the President and the Vice-President was vested in all the members of the Council including the official members. The official members could not be expected to take interest in the advancement of the municipalities as they were transferred frequently. The official members should therefore be deprived of their right of voting for electing the President and the Vice-President.

The Nagercoil town was much congested, especially the fishermen's quarters in Kottar. Their dwellings were crowded and insanitary. The need for removing the congestion and providing them with sanitary habitations had engaged the attention of the previous Dewans and the previous Presidents of the Council. The scheme of constructing a new street for them should be taken up without delay and their grievances redressed.

In the days of advancement and equality of rights of men and women, it was an anachronism that women should be denied the franchise for municipal election and the right of membership. This disability should be removed.

64. Removal of Municipal Office bearers on "no confidence" motions.

MR. P. C. TANUMALAYAPERUMAL PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) next spoke about the need for removing Presidents of Municipal Councils when they did not function properly. If they were appointed for a fixed term and could not be removed before that term, it was open to them to do as they liked and be indifferent to do their duties for the public good. They could also enlist the support of some of the members and continue in office in spite of their indifference. The rules did not permit the members to remove such officers from their offices. It was but fair that the members who elected Presidents should have also the power to remove Presidents. In British India Presidents of Municipal Councils could be removed from their offices on "no confidence" motions moved and carried by the members

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of the Councils. If similar power be vested in the members of the Municipal Councils here also, the Presidents would be more alive to their responsibility.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Tanumalayaperumal Pillai, your general representation will be considered along with the draft of the new Municipal Bill which is under preparation.

There are two or three special representations about *poramboke* lands, drinking water for Vadivisvaram and congestion in fishermen's quarters at Kottar. These will be enquired into.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2-5 P. M. and reassembled at 3 P. M.

65. Needs of the Trivandrum Municipal Council.

MR. N. S. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (*Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) said that one of the important problems that demanded the immediate attention of the Government was the question of providing a decent building for the local Municipal Council Office. The building in which the office was located was in a very deplorable condition. The Council had made repeated requests to the Government for the grant of a decent sum, part as loan and part as a contribution, for the purpose of providing a decent building for housing the office. If the Dewan were to inspect the existing building, he would surely not allow the Council to hold its meetings there. The building was so unsafe.

The Municipal Council, Trivandrum, was not able to maintain a balanced budget, as the demands of the town which it had to attend to were increasing from day to day. The nominal reserve fund of the Council had also been exhausted and the Council had to depend solely upon its recurring income for its expenditure. The income was practically constant, while the expenditure was increasing gradually. More than a third of the town was occupied by Government buildings, which were exempt from taxation. To compensate for the loss to the Council under house tax on this account, the Government fixed a grant of Rs. 20,000 per annum to the Municipality many years back. The revenue of the Council under house tax had increased on account of re-assessment and the revision of the annual rental, but the Government grant had been reduced. The undisbursed portion of the grant for 1107 had been withheld for reasons known only to the Government. The recent outbreak of epidemics in the town as well as the prevailing economic depression had greatly affected the slender resources of the Municipality. Early orders should therefore be issued for the immediate payment of the undisbursed portion of the grant for 1107. The Government should also sympathetically consider requisitions for grants from the Municipal Council.

The member next requested that the new City Municipal Bill for the Trivandrum Municipality should be expedited. The existing Regulation was far behind the times unsuitable to the growing needs of

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